

Appl. No. 10/015,202

Amdt. dated January 19, 2005

Reply to Office Action of October 19, 2004

### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Listing of Claims

1-149. (Cancelled)

150. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a patient susceptible to tachycardia, the method comprising:

implanting a device having a housing and containing circuitry for sensing and treating tachycardia, the circuitry configured to provide a constant current output signal; and

implanting at least one electrode coupled to the device for use in sensing or treating cardiac function of the patient;

wherein the at least one electrode is implanted to be non-vascular and non-cardiac, and wherein the device further includes a device electrode disposed on or making up part of the housing; and

treating tachycardia by forcing a constant current signal to pass through patient tissue between the device electrode and another implanted non-vascular and non-cardiac electrode.

151-153. (Cancelled)

154. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 150, wherein the circuitry is adapted to provide two constant current electric signals in a biphasic waveform.

155. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 150, wherein the step of treating tachycardia includes generating a monophasic constant current signal.

156. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 150, wherein the step of treating tachycardia includes generating first and second constant current electric signals of opposing signs in a biphasic waveform.

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157-163. (Cancelled)

164. (Previously Presented) A method of treating tachycardia comprising:

implanting a device in a patient, the device having a housing including an electrode, the device also containing circuitry for sensing and treating tachycardia and generating a constant current signal; and

implanting at least one electrode coupled to the device for use in sensing or treating cardiac function of the patient;

treating tachycardia by generating a constant current signal between the device electrode and another electrode coupled to the device;

wherein all electrodes coupled to the device are disposed outside of the patient's vasculature and exclusive of the patient's heart.

165. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 164, further comprising:

sensing a portion of the patient's cardiac rhythm; and

categorizing the patient's cardiac rhythm as acceptable or abnormal; wherein the step of treating tachycardia is performed when the patient's cardiac rhythm is abnormal.